General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.7)*]

57/252. Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, and its resolution 56/192 of 21 December 2001 on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,

Recalling also the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[2] decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session,[3] relating to freshwater, and those contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

Recalling the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to launch programmes of action, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium development goal on safe drinking water, namely, to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and the goal of the Summit to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,[6]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2, para. 19.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 25.

Recalling also its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

Noting the efforts made in preparation for the Third World Water Forum and International Ministerial Conference, to be held in Japan in March 2003, and for the elaboration of the "World Water Development Report",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by States, the Secretariat, and the organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater and by major groups in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, relevant international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link their relevant activities to the Year;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and major groups to take advantage of the Year to raise awareness of the essential importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs and for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and calls for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing countries;

4. *Encourages* voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to promote activities related to the Year;

5. *Calls upon* Member States that have not already done so to create national committees or designate focal points in their respective countries to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote closer coordination to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the Year;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] A/57/132.

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57/253. World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 56/226 of 24 December 2001,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21[2] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3]

Having considered the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[4]

Reaffirming, in this regard, the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992,

Welcoming the adoption by the Summit of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[7] on 4 September 2002,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Summit and its Preparatory Committee provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, at the highest level, as well as the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

Reaffirming the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Governments and the peoples of Indonesia and South Africa for hosting, respectively, the fourth Preparatory Committee meeting and the Summit, for the excellent arrangements, for the hospitality extended to participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[4]

2. *Endorses* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[7]

3. *Decides* to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and to give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21[2] and its review;

4. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds, programmes and regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and calls for further discussion of this matter within the Commission on Sustainable Development;

6. *Calls* for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions of the means of implementation, as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission on Sustainable Development holds an organizational meeting of its next session in January 2003 and its session in April/May 2003;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of the Commission, taking into account the decisions contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into full account the outcomes of the Summit, in particular the decisions made on the institutional framework for sustainable development as contained in chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations and in his contribution to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", and requests the Secretary-General, at that session, to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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57/254. United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,[1]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling,

Appreciating the contribution made by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the issue of education for sustainable development since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the fact that the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") confirmed the importance of education for sustainable development and recommended that the General Assembly consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development starting in 2005,[2]

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Decides* to proclaim the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2005 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade, and requests it to develop a draft international implementation scheme, clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

adopted at the World Education Forum[3] and the United Nations Literacy Decade,[4] in consultation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to providing recommendations for Governments on how to promote and improve the integration of education for sustainable development in their respective educational strategies and action plans at the appropriate level;

3. *Invites* Governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the Decade in their respective educational strategies and action plans by 2005, taking into account the international implementation scheme to be prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

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[3] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[4] See resolution 56/116.